

# American Communal Societies Quarterly

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## Hamilton College Library "Home Notes"

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## Hamilton College Library "Home Notes"

### Paschal Beverly Randolph

The cover of this issue of *ACSQ* features the gilt-stamped decoration on the cover of Paschal Beverly Randolph's book *Eulis: The History of Love*. Randolph's emblem of a winged globe represents the soul. The admonition "TRY!" encouraged spiritual seekers toward clairvoyance, or personal unity with, and experience of, his conceived "soul world." Randolph's writings influenced Madame Blavatsky and the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, and form the foundation of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century occultism. Hamilton College recently added a number of titles by Randolph to the Communal Societies Collection.

Paschal Beverly Randolph (1825-1875) was born in New York City to mixed-race parents. After a rough childhood in the notorious Five Points neighborhood he worked as a sailor and barber. After he returned to the United States in 1855, he lived in the Upstate New York town of Stockbridge on land owned by abolitionist Gerrit Smith, and then in Utica. Randolph married an African-American woman with whom he had three children.

In the late 1850s and early 1860s he traveled to Europe and the Near East where he made contact with many in the Spiritualist movement, as well as practical occultists. Returning to the United States he founded the first Rosicrucian Order in the western hemisphere, the *Fraternitas Rosae Crucis*. Randolph was a trance medium. He also taught what he termed "sex magic," sold medical elixirs containing hashish, and magic mirrors used in occult practices.

Randolph married a second time to an Irish woman named Kate Corson Randolph. He published numerous books before his untimely death at the age of forty-nine in Toledo, Ohio. John Patrick Deveney's definitive biography *Paschal Beverly Randolph: A Nineteenth-Century Black American Spiritualist, Rosicrucian, and Sex Magician* (SUNY Press, 1997) is highly recommended. Hamilton College holds nine of Randolph's works.

# DEALINGS WITH THE DEAD;

AND

## CYNTHIA IN THE SOUL-WORLD.

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"I have stolen the golden keys of the Egyptians; I will indulge my sacred fury."—KEPLER.

"What is here written is truth, therefore it cannot die."—POE.

"I have found it! This night have I read the Mystic Scroll. The GRAND SECRET stands revealed. It is mine! Alone I delved for it, alone I have found it! Now let the world laugh! I am immortal!"—P. B. RANDOLPH.

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NEW YORK :

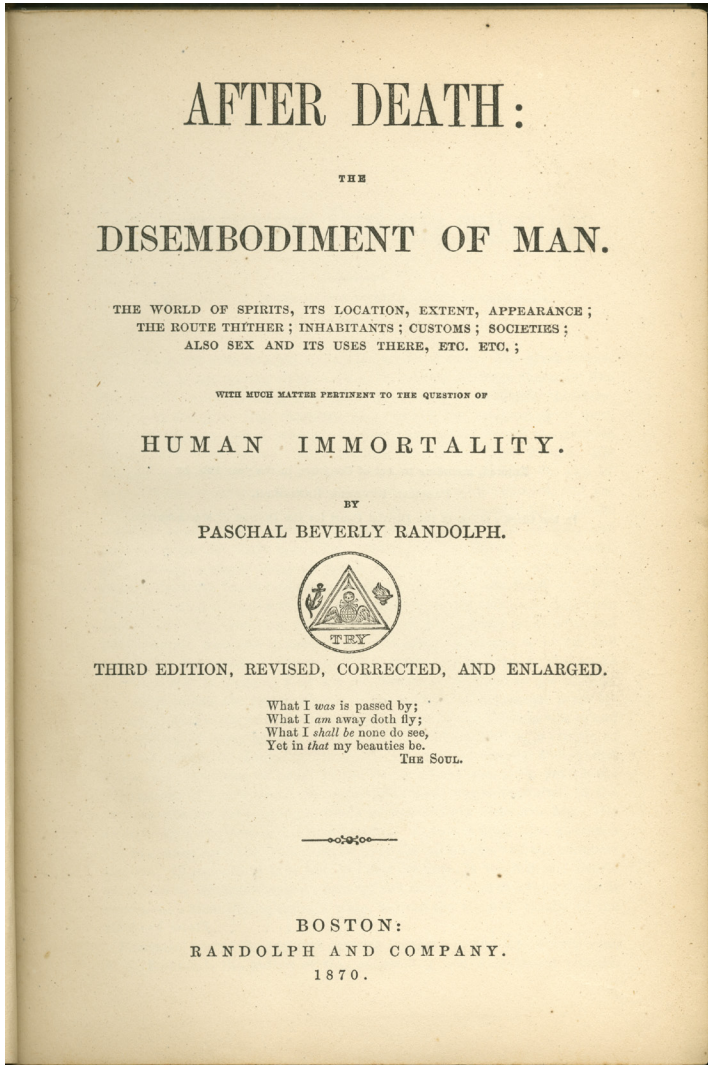
PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICE OF "THE WAY OF THE WORLD,"

No. 5 TRYON ROW.

1861-'62.

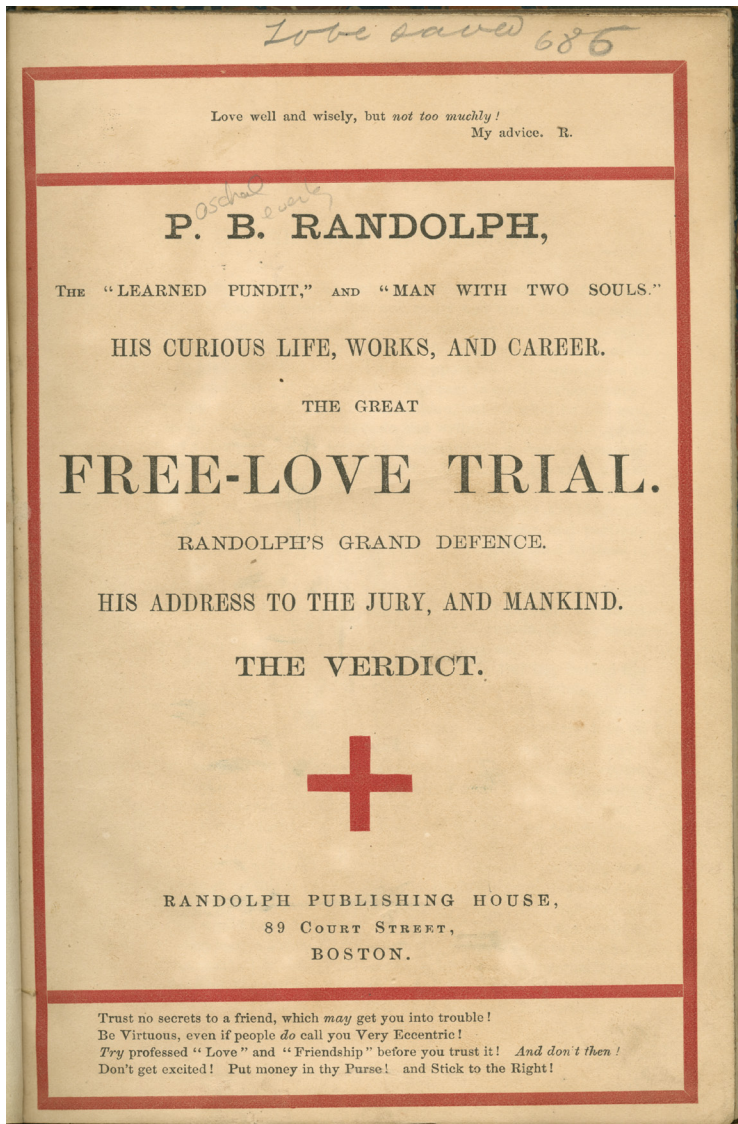
### *Dealings with the Dead: and Cynthia in the Soul World.*

New York: Published at the Office of the "Way of the World,"  
1861-1862.



*After Death: the Disembodiment of Man. The World of Spirits, its Location, Extent, Appearance, the Route Thither, Inhabitants, Customs, Societies, also Sex and its Uses There, etc., etc.: with Much Matter Pertinent to the Question of Human Immortality.*

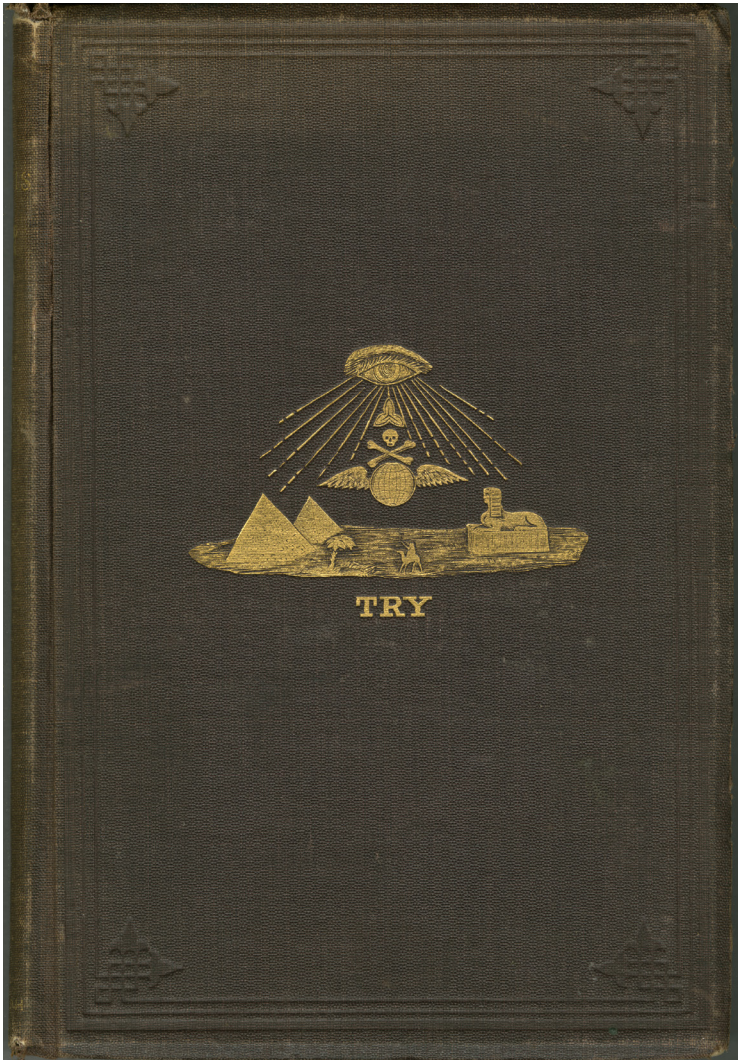
Boston: Randolph and Company, 1870.



*P.B. Randolph, the "Learned Pundit" and "Man with Two Souls": His Curious Life, Works, and Career. The Great Free-Love Trial. Randolph's Grand Defence, his Address to the Jury, and Mankind. The Verdict.*

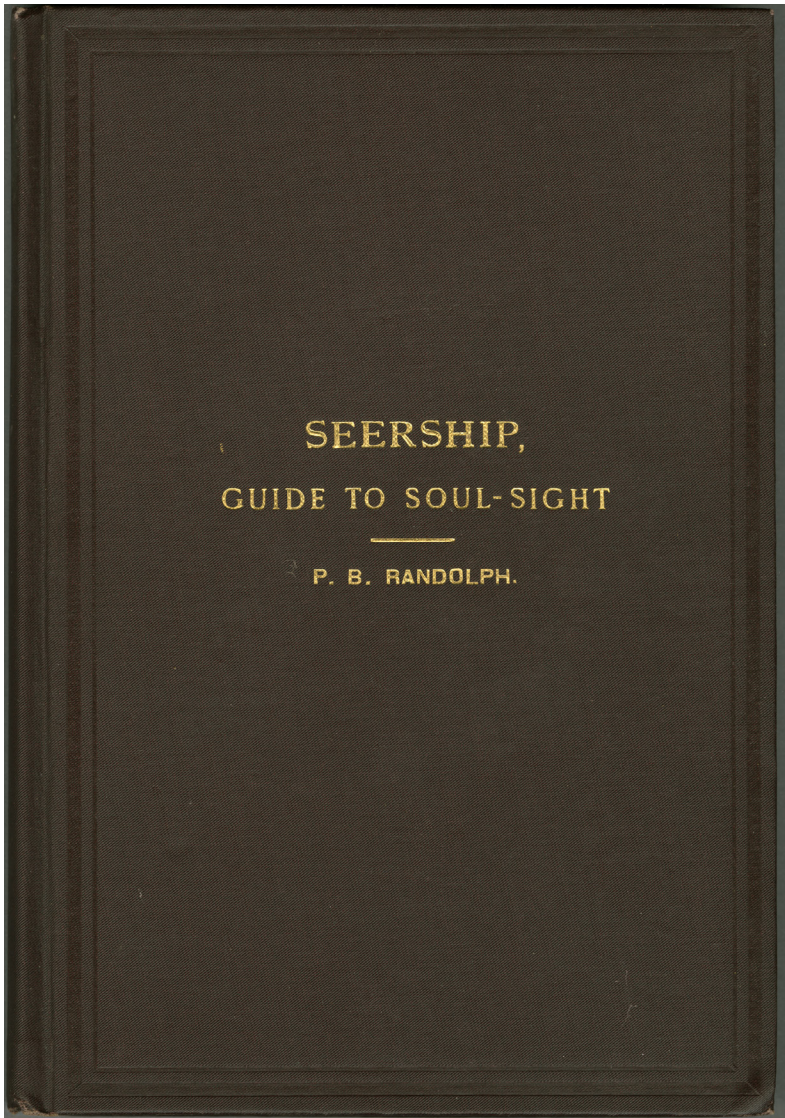
Boston: Randolph Publishing House, [1872?].





*Eulis!: The History of Love, its Wondrous Magic, Chemistry, Rules, Laws, Modes, Moods and Rationale: Being the Third Revelation of Soul and Sex: Also, Reply to "Why is Man Immortal?": The Solution of the Darwin Problem, an Entirely New Theory.*

Toledo, Ohio: Randolph Publishing Co., 1874.



*Seership!: The Magnetic Mirror: a Practical Guide for Those who Aspire to Clairvoyance-absolute: Original, and Selected from Various English and Asiatic Adepts.*

Toledo, Ohio: K. C. Randolph, 1901.